Cambridge, Mass. Nov. 17/1865

My Dear Prof. Oliver

Yours of Oct. 30th is before me. It is possible that I have not acknowledged an earlier note of yours, but I trust I have. You ask how I am off for St. Helena plants. I have none at all, i.e. nothing of its indigenous flora. So I shall be glad enough to get the offered duplicates of Burchell's coll.

"How to send these, and the Sandwich Isd. parcel?" They would reach me promptly if sent to Trübner & Co. 60 Pater-noster Row. But as Dr. Hooker, among the rest of his amazing partiality and kindness to me, has given directions to have a set of duplicate Pine Cones, &c. selected for me, from any spare materials of the Museum, I suppose all together would soon warrant the sending of a small case by the R. M. Steamer.

Thanks for the 3 pamphlets just received from you. The notes on Bixineae (Pyramidocarpus, &c.) are

Nov. 20.

I have just seen in Gard. Chron. that Lindley is gone too. These great changes make one sad.

Ever, my dear Prof. Oliver,

Yours faithfully

Asa Gray

very interesting. I have all along thought Bentham could not sustain his distinction between Samydeae & Bixineae, and objected to this view. He was lead to take that view, I suppose by the strong desire to keep up marked distinction between hypogynous & perigynous orders, – which would be very convenient if it could be done. But it will break down every way. Your discovery of Pyramido= carpus will hasten the inevitable result, and restore Samydeae to Bixineae in the Gen. Pl.

About the Japan things, I am having the set of Oldham's all put in order, & bringing together with them what I have lately received from Leyden Museum. And as I put them away into herbm I shall have a [illegible] of notes to send you. Between Miquel & Maximowitz, there is likely to be publication enough on Japan botany for the present.

As to the Sandwich Isld plants, I mean promptly to send you notes of the collation of them with my materials, and to collate Mann's things at the same time, – securing for you a suite of all of Mann's that you can need, whenever he has duplicates. Thus far I have seen only his Compo=
sitae, – not so many nor so good specimens as I expected.

I encourage & shall help H. Mann to draw up, with a list of his own plants, a full one of all known Hawaiian plants, – partly to anticipate Seemann, who is, I see, disposed to meddle with that flora. My Hes= peromannia (Mutisiad) I will print immediately, along with some new Californian Compositae. You are quite right to pub= lish your Begoniad, and I supposed you would, of course, call it Hillebrandia. He well de= serves it. There is no reason you should hesitate to bring out anything you wish, on H. Mann's account. I hope he will do something; but he is young, untried, and without claims wh. should stand in your way at all nor would he ever pretend that you should not publish what you like of Sandwich Isd. botany, without deferring to him.